

1733



EPSTEIN, EDELL, SHAPIRO, FINNAN & LYTTLE, LLC
1901 Research Boulevard
Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 424-3640

In re the PATENT application of

Jeffrey S. HAGGARD et al

Serial No. 09/529,391

Group Art Unit: 1733

Filed: June 6, 2000

Examiner: Yao, S.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN-LINE SPLITTING OF PLURAL COMPONENT
FIBERS AND FORMATION OF NONWOVEN FABRICS

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

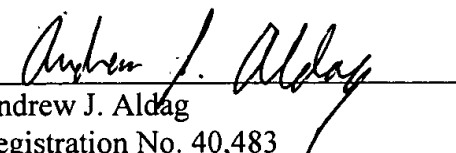
Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the subject application is a Response to Restriction
Requirement (4 pages).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required
for the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,

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AUG 21 2002
TC 1700


Andrew J. Aldag
Registration No. 40,483

Hand-delivered: August 19, 2002



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Attorney Docket No.: 0818.0014C
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Jeffrey S. HAGGARD et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

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For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IN-LINE SPLITTING OF PLURAL
COMPONENT FIBERS AND FORMATION OF NONWOVEN FABRICS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

The following is a Response to the Restriction (Paper No. 10) mailed July 18, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-100 are pending in the subject application. A previous restriction requirement was made (Paper #7) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, where the claims were separated into the following groups: Group I, claims 91-100, drawn to plural component fibers, Group II, claims 78-90, drawn to a nonwoven web of fabric, Group III, claims 1-41, drawn to methods of making nonwoven fabrics, and Group IV, claims 42-77, drawn to apparatuses. In responding to that restriction requirement (see Applicant's Response, filed June 14, 2002), Applicant elected Group III, claims 1-41 with traverse.

In the present restriction requirement, the Examiner is further restricting the elected Group III claims into the following sub-groups: Species A (claims 1-21) directed to extruding and depositing splittable fibers to form a web and then applying heat to the web to cause separation of the splittable fibers, and Species B (claims 22-41) directed to applying heat to extruded splittable fibers to separate the fibers, and then depositing the separated fibers to form a